

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01640 131210Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4734

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT: FURTHER CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S
VISIT

REF: PRAGUE 1601

1. SLOVAK REMMUNIST PARTY DAILY "PRAVDA" JULY 11 CARRIED FULL ACCOUNT OF SECRETARY'S VISIT ON FRONT PAGE WITH PICTURE OF SECRETARY AND HUSAK SEATED TOGETHER. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN "PRAVDA"TERMED VISIT A "MULTIPLE POLITICAL PREMIERE": SECRETARY WAS HIGHEST-RANKING U.S. OFFICIAL TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FIRST NATO FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN LAST FIVE YEARS; AND CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS FIRST BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. ARTICLE NOTED THAT VISIT TOOK PLACE SHORTLY AFTER BREZHNEV VISIT TO U.S. AND FIRST STAGE OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE, ADDING THAT BOTH EVENTS MADE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND CSSR POSSIBLE.

2. DUSAN ROVENSKY, CHIEF INTERNATIONAL EDITOR OF "RUDE PRAVO," WROTE IN JULY 11 ISSUE THAT VISIT AND SIGNING OF CONSULAR CONVENTION DEMONSTRATED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND U.S. WERE IMPROVING. HE LINKED VISIT TO CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WITH ITS "CHANGED BALANCE OF POWER IN FAVOR OF SOCIALISM AND THE PEACEFUL INITIATIVES OF USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES," AND SAID THAT "VISIT REAFFIRMED THAT POSSIBILITIES EXIST FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01640 131210Z

RELATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL

SITUATION". ROVENSKY CONCLUDED WITH COMMENT THAT SIGNING OF CONSULAR CONVENTION, AND CONTACTS BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES, DEMONSTRATED "GROWING PRESTIGE OF CSSR IN WORLD" AND FACT THAT "REACTIONARY FORCES HAVE ATTEMPTED IN VAIN TO ISOLATE US ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE."

3. SLOVAK PRESS HAS NOT YET MENTIONED SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON REOPENING OF U.S. CONSULATE IN BRATISLAVA, ALTHOUGH "RUDE PRAVO" MADE BRIEF MENTION OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS. AS FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, EXPLICIT FACT THAT SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER SIGNED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON DUAL NATIONALS HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
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